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(54) Title: METHOD FOR ACCESSING AND RENDERING AN IMAGE

(57) Abstract

The invention provides a method of defining and rendering an image comprising a plurality of components (bitmaps, vector-based elements, text and effects or other effects) and an alpha channel. The components are grouped into a ranked hierarchy based on their position relative to each other. There can be groups of groups. With this grouping, each component can be defined using a common protocol and rendering and processing of the components can be dealt with in the same manner. The image can be processed on a scanline-by-scanline basis. For each scanline analysis, information regarding neighboring scanlines are acquired and processed, as needed.

